

Susan Severtson.txt

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1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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STATEMENT OF:

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SUSAN SEVERTSON

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JANUARY 16, 2008

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ONE GENESIS CENTER

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GARY, INDIANA

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20 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

21 Telephone: 312-781-9111

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24 REPORTED BY: Sharon A. Stuckly, 84-1640

HDR

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MS. SEVERTSON: RUDolph Clay, Mayor
Susan Severtson,

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S-e-v-e-r-t-s-o-n.

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This is on the letterhead from the

4 office of the mayor for the City of Gary, 401
5 Broadway, Gary, Indiana, dated January 16, to the
6 Surface Transportation Board.

7 As a mayor, I would like to welcome
8 to you to the great city of Gary, Indiana. On
9 behalf of our citizens, I appreciate the
10 opportunity to address the following important
11 issues.

12 For the past three months, our staff
13 and development team have reviewed, analyzed and
14 discussed the Canadian National Railroad's
15 proposal for the acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet
16 and Eastern Railroad and the company's associated
17 Kirk yard.

18 I would like to thank those
19 individuals who have committed time to this
20 review process. We have evaluated a number of
21 critical issues in terms of how the proposed
22 acquisition can possibly affect our citizens and
23 those of Northwest Indiana.

24 we have discussed environmental

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1 concerns, public safety, proposed train traffic
2 increases and the impacts these operations would
3 have on our neighborhoods.

4 In addition, our team has likewise
5 discussed in extensive detail the economic impact
6 this acquisition would have on Gary, job
7 creation, property taxes and existing development
8 plans including the Gary Chicago International
9 Airport. As the airport is a critical

10 development piece, we stand in unison with and
11 support the position of Congressman Viscolsky.

12 After this extensive analysis, we are
13 prepared to take the following position relative
14 to the Canadian National Railroad's proposal.

15 We welcome continued negotiation with
16 the Canadian National Railway. The city looks
17 forward to successful negotiations that ensures
18 the continuity of public safety, protect the
19 environment and guarantee that our economic and
20 physical development projects are not adversely
21 affected.

22 These projects include but are not
23 limited to the Gary Chicago International Airport
24 and lake front development.

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1 At the beginning of the 20th century
2 Gary, Indiana, received national designation as
3 the city of the century due to the vision of the
4 United States steel board of directors.

5 As Gary is now recognized as a
6 crossroads of America, we believe the city is in
7 an equally beneficial position of becoming a
8 global transportation leader. We believe in the
9 great potential and associated financial benefits
10 of our physical and economic development
11 initiatives.

12 These projects with continued open
13 discussions with the Canadian National Railway
14 can only benefit from a synergistic partnership

15 with this company, the largest rail company in
16 North America.

17 Gary will again become a world class
18 city via our developmental initiatives and via
19 probable partnerships as with the Canadian
20 National Railway.

21 The Canadian National Railway and its
22 staff have shown that they are willing to work
23 with my administration to find resolution to
24 outstanding issues. Conditioned upon this

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1 resolution, we believe the Canadian National's
2 contribution to the city and the region can be
3 substantial. We recognize that railway
4 transportation is an important piece for the
5 city's future and our desired developmental plans.

6 I have long believed Gary to be one
7 of the greatest cities in the world. We are
8 doing great things to help bring our best days
9 ahead.

10 Thank you for your time, Rudolph Clay,
11 mayor.

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